Listing of Claims:

1.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A ribozyme that cleaves estrogen receptor mRNA, wherein said ribozyme comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 (RZ1) or SEQ ID NO:11 (RZ2).

24. (Original) The ribozyme of claim 23, wherein said ribozyme comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 (RZ1) .

25. (Original) The ribozyme of claim 24, wherein said ribozyme has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 (RZ1).

26. (Original) The ribozyme of claim 23, wherein said ribozyme comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 (RZ2).

27. (Original) The ribozyme of claim 26, wherein said ribozyme has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:11 (RZ2).

28. (Original) The ribozyme of claim 26, wherein said ribozyme is formulated in a ligosome.

29. (Original) A nucleic acid that encodes a ribozyme in accordance with claim 23.

30. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a ribozyme that comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 (RZ1).

31. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a ribozyme that comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 (RZ2).

32. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid further comprises a promoter.

33. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein said nucleic acid is comprised within a recombinant vector.

34. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid is comprised within a recombinant viral vector.

35. (Original) The nucleic acid of claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid is comprised within a recombinant adenoviral vector, adeno-associated viral vector or retroviral vector.

36. (Original) An expression vector that expresses a ribozyme in accordance with claim 23.

37. (Original) The expression vector of claim 36, wherein said vector expresses a ribozyme that comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 (RZ1).

38. (Original) The expression vector of claim 36, wherein said vector expresses a ribozyme that comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 (RZ2).

39. (Original) The expression vector of claim 36, wherein said vector provides 5' capping and polyadenylation of the expressed ribozyme.

40. (Original) A method for reducing estrogen receptor activity, comprising providing an effective amount of a ribozyme in accordance with claim 23 to estrogen receptor-containing cultured cells.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, wherein the estrogen-dependent proliferation of said cells is inhibited.

42. (Original) A method for inhibiting estrogen-dependent cell proliferation, comprising administering a ribozyme in accordance with claim 23 to estrogen receptor-containing cells *in vitro* in an amount effective to inhibit proliferation of said cells.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein said ribozyme comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7 (RZ1) .

44. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein said ribozyme comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 11 (RZ2).

45. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein said ribozyme is administered to said cells in a liposome.

46. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein a vector that expresses said ribozyme is administered to said cells.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein said vector is an adenoviral vector, adeno-associated viral vector or retroviral vector.

48. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein said estrogen receptor-containing cells are estrogen-dependent tumor cells.

49. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein said estrogen-dependent tumor cells are estrogen-dependent breast cancer cells.

50. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein an antiestrogen compound is further administered to said cells.